

Bridge Inspection

As required by state law, DOTE Bridge Program personnel inspect every bridge in Cincinnati that supports a public roadway or crosses over or under a public roadway at least once a year. These inspections are performed in accordance with the guidelines specified in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Bridge Inspection Manual. The objectives of these inspections are to:

1. Locate and determine the extent of any structural weaknesses or damage so that appropriate corrective actions can be taken to ensure public safety.
2. Provide a current information base on the condition of bridges within Cincinnati so that maintenance, repair, and replacement projects can be programmed efficiently.
3. Satisfy state and federal laws and regulations.

The ODOT Bridge Inspection Manual defines a bridge as "Any structure, including supports, of 10 feet or more clear span or 10 feet or more in diameter on, above, or below a highway." During the 2004/2005 inspection season (which began in the fall of 2004 and was concluded the following year), Department of Transportation and Engineering personnel inspected a total of 292 bridges.

Based upon maintenance responsibility, these 292 bridges are divided into the following eight categories:

1. **City (DOTE) Bridges** (68 bridges): Vehicular and pedestrian bridges owned by the City that are maintained by the Department of Transportation and Engineering.
2. **County Bridges** (67 bridges): Vehicular bridges within City limits that support either U.S. or Ohio State Routes or support other improved roads which are of general and public utility running into or through Cincinnati. The Department of Transportation and Engineering maintains these bridges for Hamilton County by contractual agreement. Hamilton County funds all work performed on these bridges.
3. **Ft. Washington Way Bridges** (5 bridges): Bridges over Ft. Washington Way constructed with the Ft. Washington Way reconstruction project. The Department of Transportation and Engineering shares maintenance responsibility for these bridges with the Ohio Department of Transportation.
4. **City (Skywalk) Bridges** (25 bridges): Central Business District pedestrian bridges on the skywalk system owned by the City. The Department of Public Services, Facility Management Division and property owners adjacent to the bridges maintain these bridges. Generally, the Department of Transportation and Engineering is responsible for the major rehabilitation of these bridges.
5. **City (Other) Bridges** (12 bridges): City-owned structures located on, over, or under a roadway that technically qualify as bridges. Various City agencies including: Stormwater Management, the Park Board, the Recreation Commission, Greater Cincinnati Water Works, and Cincinnati Public Schools maintain these bridges.

6. **Kentucky Bridges** (3 bridges): Portions of bridges that span the Ohio River and end in Cincinnati. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet owns and maintains these bridges.
7. **Railroad Bridges** (62 bridges): Railroad bridges that cross over or under public roadways. CSXT, CIND, I&O/RailTex, Norfolk-Southern, and SORTA own and maintain these bridges.
8. **Private Bridges** (50 bridges): Privately owned vehicular, pedestrian, and utility bridges that cross over or under public roadways. The applicable private owners maintain these bridges.

Bridges that are part of the Interstate Highway System, including City streets and rail lines over the interstate routes, are not inspected by DOTE Bridge Program personnel. ODOT is responsible for the inspection of these bridges and for the structural maintenance of those that are not railroad bridges. Because DOTE Bridge Program personnel do not inspect these bridges, inspection reports for these bridges are not included in this report.

Throughout the remainder of this report, most discussion will concern the 68 City (DOTE) bridges and the 67 County bridges. The Department of Transportation and Engineering is responsible for the maintenance of these 135 bridges.

Copies of all individual bridge inspection reports for bridges inspected by DOTE personnel are provided to the appropriate agency(ies).